The condition of the Puthallom licensees was worse still. Though they got *kudivila* at the rate of 3½ annas per maund, they had to execute the *maramath* works themselves. Government should realise their difficulties and render all possible relief to them.

There was a proposal to introduce the Modified Excise system in the Old *alloms* at Thamaracolam. The salt licensees were not aware of the nature of the proposal, nor had they been consulted before the Excise Commissioner sent up his recommendations to Government. The conditions of the proposed change should be conceived in a liberal spirit. The member concluded by suggesting that Government should sanction the early introduction of the Modified Excise system in the Old *Alloms*, if not the Excise system itself.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kolappa Pillai. With regard to these *alloms*, all the points that you have raised are even now under the consideration of Government; and as you yourself are aware, some of them are, I believe, nearing solution.

All the suggestions that you have made will be considered and Government will pass orders on those matters. On some of them, Government have already passed orders.

15. Wild Elephants.

MR. A. J. WRIGHT (*Kanan Devan Planters' Association*) began by saying that he proposed for the time being to confine his representation to one specific case in which the facts were already in the possession of the Government and had not been challenged. He referred to an elephant on Kadalaar estate, a recently opened property of the Kanan Devan Hills Produce Company Ltd., and situated about five miles from Munnar, in the Devicolam Division.

As long ago as May 1930, it was reported to the District Magistrate, Devicolam, that an elephant had been causing damage on that estate by pulling off the corrugated iron sheets, etc. from the roof of a cooly line. Two months later, a temporary building of eight rooms was demolished. A month later, a woman was killed; and at intervals since then it appeared on the estate terrorising the labourers and doing damage in a greater or less degree until at the end of December it crossed an elephant trench and entirely destroyed the camp which it protected including a new tent valued at over Rs. 200. Apart from the human life sacrificed, the total damage caused by the beast was estimated to be about Rs. 450.

Representations were made to the proper quarter on each occasion and the subject had been dealt with by the Police and Forest officers. As long ago as the 26th August 1930, the Devicolam Commissioner recommended to Government the proscribing of the animal as a rogue, but no orders had yet been issued and the beast was permitted to continue its wanderings and might at any time take further toll of human life.

The planters had on occasions in the past incurred the displeasure of the Government by destroying such menaces out of hand. The case dealt with above was within ten miles of the residence of the Devicolam Commissioner and in readily accessible country with a motor road running into the area concerned, so that the officers of the Government could easily satisfy themselves of the facts. But the situation remained the same even after ten months of their report, after a woman was killed and six months after a recommendation to proscribe the animal was addressed to Government

The member suggested the desirability of issuing the necessary orders at an early date and of a clear procedure being laid down as to what should be done in such cases to obtain speedy redress.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Wright. When I read the title of the subject that you proposed to deal with, I did not know whether you were going to mention any particular instance, I am therefore not in a position to say anything about the particular case that you have mentioned. I will only say that I shall make enquiries to expedite the matter so that whatever can be done in the matter may be done soon.

One difficulty generally in matters like that, I may mention to you; and that is the difficulty of getting a proper description of the rogue so that the animal might be identified before it is shot. Very often, I understand—I am not personally very much aquainted with wild elephants it is not the same animal that visits a particular place in different seasons of the year. The damage you have complained of was on three different occasions and might have been due to three different elephants of three different herds. Proscription of a particular tusker in a particular locality might therefore bring about the death of a valuable animal which was not responsible for damage or loss of life or property. I was explaining that to show why there is delay in particular cases. In cases of the kind you mentioned, the difficulty is about the proper identification of the particular animal so that other animals may not be shot. I am sure you will agree with me that it is a sad thing to have an elephant shot without being sure that it is the real rogue responsible for the damage complained of. That is Government's main difficulty.

16. Wild Elephants.

MR. J. H. CANTLAY (*Central Travancore Planters' Association*) speaking about the damages caused to property by wild elephants, said that the destruction of property in the district of Vandiperiyar by such animals was a matter of great concern to them and that it was a subject which his Association had brought up to the Assembly on several previous occasions with no results. The position was considerably worse than what it was when the subject was last brought up, due to the following reasons:—

(i) Wild elephants were very largely increasing in numbers.